

## **Reporting System on Partner Support to Statistical Development Task Team -- Progress Report, as of January 31, 2007**

The terms of reference of the Task Team on a reporting system on partner support to statistical development enumerated five main responsibilities:

- reviewing existing reporting systems, with the objective of making recommendations on how these different systems could better interact and complement each other;
- defining mechanisms for the collection, processing, verification, dissemination and analysis of the information;
- determining the key elements of a web-based database
- monitoring the development of the web-based database
- estimating the cost of the reporting system and proposing funding mechanisms.

At its first meeting on November 10, 2006, the Task Team agreed on a template of key characteristics for the review of existing partner reporting systems, which would be completed by TT members for their respective institution. The meeting also agreed that a classification of statistical areas and a typology of financing mechanisms would be useful tools for an eventual reporting system on partner support to statistical development. Petteri Baer of UNECE volunteered to take charge of the classification of statistical activities and Adriana De Leva of PARIS21 agreed to draft a note financing typology. It was deemed necessary to postpone the discussion on a web-based database until the above background work was completed and discussed. This note presents progress/status of the Team's activities and proposes a short-term strategy to move forward on the reporting systems, as well as a work programme for the next four months.

### **Review of existing reporting systems**

The review of existing reporting systems, covering partners' "own-use" systems (the World Bank, the IMF, DFID) and systems reporting on activities of other partners (OECD, Eurostat and UNECE) was done by each partner (the FAO did not submit a template; the information in the matrix is based on FAO's presentation during the first meeting of the Task Team). A brief description of each system is presented below and the attached matrix summarizes the key characteristics of each system.

#### ***OECD – Creditor Reporting System (CRS)***

The well-established Creditor Reporting System (CRS) of the OECD collects information on aid activities from DAC members and other organizations. The CRS relies on a network of statistical correspondents, who are in direct contact with persons responsible for the aid policy agenda in their country and with users of aid statistics. Its methodology is revised periodically and allows cross-checking with DAC's aggregated statistics and data comparability among members. Its sector classification is also revised and fine-tuned to reflect trends in aid activities. CRS data are public and freely available online in a user-friendly way. Some weaknesses of the system include: (i) the complexity of processing data from the DAC questionnaire and aggregated CRS data; (ii) the unique sector code by aid activity precludes the identification of support to secondary sectors; and (iii) the non-coverage of contributions by several multilateral organizations (including most UN agencies).

As agreed at the TT's first meeting in November 2006, PARIS21 has prepared terms of reference for a feasibility study on the use of the CRS to report support to statistical capacity building (SCB). Based on a review and analysis of the gaps in SCB reporting between the CRS and the Light Reporting System, the study will make recommendations on how to improve SCB reporting in the CRS in the short-term and propose a draft methodology to help identify SCB activities via the CRS in the future. The identification of an expert to carry out the review is under way by the PARIS21 Secretariat. The review should be completed by end-April 2007.

#### ***Eurostat/UNECE – Database for Balkan and Central Asian Countries***

Eurostat and UNECE launched a reporting exercise in the Balkan countries and Central Asian countries, respectively, in 2006. The questionnaire is very similar to that of the Light Reporting Exercise for Sub-Saharan Africa, carried out by PARIS21. Some problems encountered to collect the information are: (i) complicated decision structures (e.g., UN agencies); (ii) difficulty to identify correct contacts in decentralized statistical systems; and (iii) lack of clarity in the classification of categories and their definitions. For the moment, the information collected is stored in Excel sheets.

#### ***World Bank – Country Statistical Information Database (CSID)***

The World Bank has developed the Country Statistical Information Database (CSID) to be able to assess statistical capacity and monitor progress in statistical development in developing countries. The CSID includes a project database on the Bank's statistical projects and grants, which can be searched by region, country financial instrument, statistical category and project year. It is available online and users can extract information for their own use. The source of information for the database is project appraisal documentation. Some drawbacks of the system are: (i) the difficulty of identifying statistics-related projects/activities, since statistics is not recognized as a sector and statistical activities are not always identified at project inception; (ii) financing information reflects commitments, not actual disbursements; and (iii) information on the Bank's grant-financed projects, except for TFSCB, are not publicly available.

#### ***IMF – Technical Assistance Information Management System (TAIMS)***

The IMF is refining a Technical Assistance Information Management System (TAIMS), which allows it to manage and monitor TA project implementation. The system draws from the Travel Information Management System (TIMS), an administrative tool for planning and monitoring mission travel. TAIMS provides a standard, integrated view of TA projects across IMF departments, consolidates TA project information from existing databases, and does not require extensive training for inputting or using the information. Its shortcomings include: (i) the time-consuming aspect of extracting information; (ii) short-term TA not always well-coded; and (iii) the information is not accessible to public.

#### ***DFID – Project Reporting System***

DFID's Project Reporting System does not provide a complete picture on the level of statistics-related projects. But, since information on support to statistics is important for the International Division Advisory Department, DFID requests HQ staff with country responsibility and country-based statisticians to provide information for both ongoing and planned statistical activities. At present, the information is collected as needed and is stored in Excel. The main strength of the system is that it allows easy identification of statistical projects (both ongoing and planned) and provides their key information. Its weaknesses are that: (i) it is not an automated process and thus

relies on staff providing accurate and complete data that is reconciled and matched to existing systems; and (ii) the information is not available to the public.

### **Classification of statistical activities related to SCB**

Following the review of classifications being used by development partners, Petteri Baer has proposed a classification of statistical activities related to statistical capacity building, adopted by the UNECE's Database on International Statistical Activities (DISA). The advantages of using this classification are (i) its applicability by both donors and recipient countries; (ii) the availability of detailed explanations of all the sub-groups in the classification (providing not only definitions of the categories, but also advising on how closely-related topics should be categorized); and (iii) total harmonization with the classification recommended in the SDMX guidelines. The Task Team will discuss the applicability of this classification and eventual refinements necessary to render it usable for any future reporting system (e.g, by reducing the number of sub-categories).

### **Typology of Partner Financial and Non-Financial Support**

The draft note on the typology of partner financial and non-financial support to statistical development provides a brief description of terminology used to categorize development support. It is hoped that the note can serve as a classification tool for an eventual reporting system on partner support to statistical development.

The note is mainly based on a desk review of the World Bank website, complemented by documentation of other key development partners in the area of statistical development, namely the EC and the Canada's International Development Agency. Overall, the note provides a basis of discussion for the Task Team, but will need to be completed and adjusted to reflect terminology relevant to other key partners, as well as actual project examples of other partners.

### **Proposals to Move Forward and Next Steps**

#### *Phased Strategy*

To maintain the momentum on the reporting of statistical activities, the Task Team might want to consider a phased approach to the design and development of the proposed reporting system on partner support to statistical development. A possible phased strategy could be:

- *short-term:*
  - use CRS as basis for identification of statistical activities of member states
  - continue the partner reporting exercise à la Light Reporting Exercise, using classifications defined above, and extend to other regions
  - verify/complement above information at country level (partners' field offices and beneficiary countries)
- *medium-term:*
  - refine the CRS to allow a better identification of statistical activities of member states
  - develop a more user-friendly database for non-OECD members
- *long-term:*
  - each partner develops/refines own reporting system to identify statistical support in its operations

- develop global reporting system, drawing from CRS and non-OECD reporting system

The duration of the short-term phase will depend on the results of the feasibility study on the CRS and the timing required to refine it (as warranted), as well as on the timing of designing and developing a database for non-OECD members.

### *Design of a database*

As part of the short-term strategy, the Task Team might want to consider the continuation of the exercises initiated by PARIS21 on Africa, Eurostat on Balkan countries and the UNECE on Central Asian countries and the extension of the reporting exercise to other regions of the world.

In this regard, it might be worthwhile to define a database structure, which would simplify the management of data, now stored on Excel sheets. To do this, it is necessary to (i) decide what data is required (e.g., the information provided in Volume II of the LRE); (ii) design a database; (iii) transfer the data from the Excel sheets to the database (Access or SQL are possible software programmes); and (iv) develop a programme to allow tabulation of data. To facilitate data updates, a data management tool could be created, such as the “administrative interface” developed by the World Bank for its CSID. This database could serve as the basis for developing a future web-based partner reporting system.

Given the technical nature of this work, it might be necessary to create a small sub-group of technical staff from interested partners to explore the possibility of this short-term solution and make recommendations on how to proceed.

### *CCSA Meeting*

In the short term, the Task Team needs to prepare a Progress Report for the CCSA meeting on February 26, 2007, as well as complete the tasks mentioned above.

### *Date of next meeting*

The next meeting of the Task Team could take place on May 4, 2007, at which time the feasibility study on the CRS should be completed. It would also be useful if the Task Team convened before the next meeting of the PARIS21 Steering Committee, tentatively scheduled for the second week of May 2007.

**Work Programme**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>
Progress Report for CCSA	De Leva	Feb 21, 07
Feasibility note on use of CRS for statistics	Simonpietri, consultant	Apr 15, 07 (draft) Apr 30, 07 (final)
Classification of statistical areas: revised	Baer	Mar 30, 07
Financing methodology: finalize	De Leva	Mar 15, 07
Creation of technical sub-group	TT members	Feb 26, 07
Recommendations on database	Sub-group	Apr 15, 07
Task Team Meeting	TT members	May 4, 07
Progress Report for P21 SC	De Leva	May 4, 07 (draft)

January 22, 2008

### Key Characteristics of Existing Reporting Systems on Partner Support to Statistical Development

	EC	UNECE	World Bank
<b>GENERAL</b>			
Name of System	Knowledge Database	Information on Donor Activities in Central Asia	The Country Statistical Information Database (CSID)
Objectives	To track what is being done where To share info to help cooperation and coordination within European Stat System To document knowledge electronically within Unit to maintain institutional memory	To improve coordination To identify and address problems in technical cooperation	To compile info to assess stat capacity and monitor progress in stat development in developing countries. The project database (part of CSID) documents info on WB's stat projects and TFSCB grants and disseminates to client countries and development partners for monitoring and coordination purposes.
Creation Date	Summer 2006	2006	2001
Management responsibility	Eurostat, E5 – International Statistical Cooperation	Statistical Division	Development Data Group, Development Economics Vice Presidency
Official Mandate	No	Yes, decision of Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in Feb 06	Yes, report to Board of Executive Directors
<b>CONTENT OF SYSTEM</b>			
Source of info	HQ: country desk of DG DEV, DG AIDCO DG RELEX Country delegations Recipient countries (missions) Regional organizations (through steering committee meetings)	HQ, mainly Field offices, somewhat Recipient countries, collected by CIS-STAT (used as checklist)	HQ
Collection method	Scanning project documents available at HQ and asking for more info in-country	Questionnaire	Direct input from partner into database
Classification of activities	Yes	Not available	Available
Information	Ongoing activities within a	Ongoing activities within certain	Ongoing activities within a certain period

	<b>EC</b>	<b>UNECE</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
coverage	certain period Planned activities (future)	period Planned activities	Past activities
Type of assistance	Financial Non-financial	Financial Non-financial: TA, training	Financial
Financing info	Commitments Disbursements	Commitments Disbursements	Commitments
Financing instrument	Grant	Grant	Loan/credit Grant
Periodicity	Regular	Annual	Annual
Quality assurance	None	Recipient countries Double-checking	Info is based on project appraisal documents and grant proposals, prepared in consultation with recipient countries
Reporting info	No	Yes	No, but users can access what they need for own purposes
<b>TECHNICAL ISSUES</b>			
Software used	Access		SQL
Storage of "textual" info		Yes	Yes
Dissemination	Not yet accessible to public	Not yet accessible to public	Web ( <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/data/country/data/csid.html">URL:http://www.worldbank.org/data/country/data/csid.html</a> )
Base of info mgmt system			Based on XML technology (users can access)
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>			
Key strengths	Tracking all statistical projects financed through European Development Funds	Collaborate with Eurostat and CIS-STAT to cover 56 countries	Specifically dedicated to reporting on stat activities Info is available online, allowing user access Database allows search of projects by region, country, financial instrument, statistical category and project year. Users can extract information from database for use and presentation on their websites and vice versa.
Key weaknesses	Little info due to lack of systemized reporting.	Complicated decision structures (UN agencies) Decentralized stat systems:	Financing info is based on project proposals, which could change over project life. Identification of stat-related projects difficult, since

	<b>EC</b>	<b>UNECE</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
		difficult to identify right contact Need clear classification of definitions	statistics not recognized as a sector. Prone to omission of relevant projects. Info on grant-financed projects not managed centrally or not publicly available, except for TFSCB grants. Support funded by WB's budget (e.g. training, TA) is not covered
Identification of stat activities		Yes	System designed to identify WB's support to stat development.

### Key Characteristics of Existing Reporting Systems on Partner Support to Statistical Development

	OECD	IMF
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Name of System	Creditor Reporting System (CRS)	1) Technical Assistance Information Management System (TAIMS) 2) Travel Information Management System (TIMS)
Objectives	To collect aid activities from DAC members and other organizations	1) To manage and monitor TA project implementation 2) To plan and monitor mission travel (transaction system)
Creation Date	1966	1) 2004 2) ??
Management responsibility	Statistics Division of Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD/STAT)	
Official Mandate	Yes, DAC members have to report to the CRS	Yes, management decision that all TA missions are required to provide info.
<b>CONTENT OF SYSTEM</b>		
Source of info	HQ of member states	HQ Field offices: experts and regional TA centers
Collection method	Questionnaire	Direct input from partner into the database
Classification of activities	CRS codes	Yes: Activity IDs (long-term expert, short-term expert, regional travel of long-term experts, mission travel, seminars and workshops TA definition ranges from single topic, one-off TA missions to large multi-sector, multi-country missions;
Information coverage	Past activities	Ongoing and planned activities
Type of assistance	All activities considered as ODA according to DAC definition Financial Non-financial: TA, training, analytical and advisory assistance	TA only
Financing info	Commitments Disbursements	Disbursements, derived from TIMS

	OECD	IMF
Financing instrument	Loan/credit Grant	Direct financing: staff missions and most experts External funding for long-term experts (mostly DFID, Japan, AFRITAC)
Periodicity	In theory, every quarter, but some members report annually	Continuous from beginning to completion of activity
Quality assurance	Data considered definitive source, approved by DAC members on their individual aid activities. DAC Secretariat checks quality, consistency and compliance to definitions, and works bilaterally with reporters.	HQ staff
Reporting info	Yes	
<b>TECHNICAL ISSUES</b>		
Software used	SQL	1) Web-based, drawing from transaction systems (PeopleSoft Financial and TIMS)
Storage of “textual” info	Yes	1) Yes 2) No
Dissemination	Web <a href="http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crs">www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crs</a>	Not accessible to public
Base of info mgmt system	CRS data exported via XML to AiDA	
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>		
Key strengths	<p><b>Decentralized network</b> of statistical correspondents in capitals of member states. Correspondents are in direct contact with policy agenda of aid issues and with users of aid statistics (NGOs, research institutes, journalists, parliamentarians).</p> <p><b>Methodology:</b> Reporting is governed by Directives of the DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT) and revised periodically. Allows cross-checking with DAC’s aggregated statistics and data comparability between members.</p> <p><b>Sector classification:</b> revised in 1995 and fine-tuned to reflect trends in aid activities; has been incorporated into internal systems of some member states and adopted by some int’l organizations</p>	<p>Provides standard, integrated view of TA projects across departments.</p> <p>Consolidates TA project info from existing databases.</p> <p>Does not require extensive training either for inputting info or for using it.</p>

	OECD	IMF
	<p><b>Markers methodology:</b> allows analysis of aid policy objectives.</p> <p><b>Stability over time:</b> time-tested methodology and solid network of correspondents.</p> <p><b>Primary information source:</b> OECD/DAC members consider the CRS to be the definitive source of information on their aid activities and refer many of these demands to the System.</p> <p><b>Public access:</b> CRS data are public and freely available online through the recently developed application OECD.STAT at <a href="http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline">http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline</a>. OECD.STAT allows the association of quantitative data with metadata at any level (dimensions and values on dimensions) in a user-friendly way.</p>	
Key weaknesses	<p><b>Complexity:</b> processing of long series entails dealing with data from DAC Questionnaire and aggregated CRS data in the same request – integration is still complex. Existence of 2 systems for similar statistical sets and the need to use either one depending on analysis required, complicates work for both users and DCD/STAT.</p> <p><b>Unique sector code by transaction:</b> facilitates production of statistics, but for some activities a second code might be useful to facilitate database searches.</p> <p><b>Timeliness and limitations on usage:</b> There is temptation to use system for purposes other than its original objectives. For example, the system is not designed for real-time data management or for coordination in the field due to delays in submission of data and not satisfactory types of data.</p> <p><b>Other contributions not covered:</b> contributions by several multilateral organizations (some UN agencies),</p>	<p>Still being developed and making enhancements.</p> <p>Extract of information not user-friendly (need to access project one-by-one).</p> <p>Long-term TA well-documented, but short-term TA not well coded (could have several codes for same activity in same country)</p> <p>Not accessible to public.</p>

	OECD	IMF
	<p>to multilateral organizations or private contributions. Good coverage of bilateral contributions by DAC members and sufficient identification of activities through NGOs and multilateral organizations.</p> <p><b>Follow-up on commitments and disbursements:</b> in roughly 10% of activities, connection between commitments and disbursements is not maintained over time (project numbers changing, etc).</p> <p><b>Changes in correspondents:</b> changes in network of correspondents, if too frequent or too quickly, can negatively affect quality of information and data coverage.</p> <p><b>User profiles:</b> lack of regular, consolidated and comparable-over-time info on user profiles and publication customers. Ought to be incorporated into any new system from beginning, so that tools can be tailored to needs (journalists, researchers, students, NGOs, etc)</p>	
Identification of stat activities	There is CRS code 16062 for SCB. Text search in project titles and descriptions allows finding statistics-related activities under other categories.	Yes, but has limitations at this early stage of development.

**Key Characteristics of Existing Reporting Systems on Partner Support to Statistical Development**

	<b>DFID</b>	<b>FAO</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Name of System	DFID Statistical Projects	1) Database of FAO Projects 2) Technical Assistance Projects in Statistics
Objectives	1) To monitor where DFID (and our partners) are spending on statistical projects and programmes and ensure resources are used effectively 2) To promote effective monitoring and information systems at country level	1) To maintain an inventory of active projects by country, giving period of project and project cost 2) To maintain inventory of TA projects by country, giving objectives, duration
Creation Date	1995	
Management responsibility	International Division Advisory Department	1) Technical Cooperation Department 2) Surveys and Statistical Development Service of Statistics Division
Official Mandate	Info on statistics projects collected separately	
<b>CONTENT OF SYSTEM</b>		
Source of info	HQ: statisticians either based in HQ with country responsibility or by country-based statisticians. Main contact Rachael Beaven	
Collection method	Data collected from country stats advisers via an Excel table	
Classification of activities	No	
Information coverage	Ongoing activities within a certain time period and planned activities	
Type of assistance	Financial and non-financial: info can be found in main databases to identify type of assistance	
Financing info		
Financing instrument		
Periodicity	When information needs to be updated	
Quality assurance	Through partner field offices by country-based statisticians	
Reporting info		

	<b>DFID</b>	<b>FAO</b>
<b>TECHNICAL ISSUES</b>		
Software used	Stored in Excel	
Storage of “textual” info	Existing database project documentation is linked through another system. Project documentation is accessible with unique project identifier	2) Yes
Dissemination	Info is available to public. Info is held on an excel spreadsheet for internal use of statistics group	1) <a href="http://www.fao.org/tc/tcom/index_en.htm">www.fao.org/tc/tcom/index_en.htm</a> 2) <a href="http://www.fao.org/es/ess/tap/default.asp">www.fao.org/es/ess/tap/default.asp</a>
Base of info mgmt system		
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>		
Key strengths	System allows easy identification of stats projects, both ongoing and planned, and provides key information	
Key weaknesses	System is not an automated process and relies on individuals providing accurate and complete data to allow it to be reconciled and matched to existing systems	
Identification of stat activities	Yes. System provides info on what projects are ongoing and where, allowing identification of where further support is needed for specific projects and of countries with little or no statistical development projects underway (only DFID countries). Collect info on whether projects are only DFID-funded or joint donor projects.	